

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-23 (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) A method for increasing elastin content in ~~a tissue~~ a region of skin of a subject, ~~which the method comprises~~ comprising applying topically ~~to said tissue~~ a composition consisting essentially of one or more zinc-containing components in admixture with a dermatologically or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an elastin-increasing effective amount, ~~to a site the region of skin of on the subject in need of increased elastin content,~~

wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is selected from the group consisting of zinc acetate, ascorbate, aspartate, butyrate, caproate, caprylate, carbonate, chromate, citraconate, citramalate, citrate, EDTA, formate, fumarate, gallate, gluconate, halides, iodate, lactate, laurate, laureate, malate, maleate, malonate, metaphosphate, methanesulfonate, monophosphate, myristate, nitrate, octoate, oleate, orotate, orthophosphate, oxalate, palmitate, permanganate, phenolsulfonate, phosphate, picolinate, propionate, pyrophosphate, salicylate, selenate, stearate, succinate, sulfate, sulfonate, tartrate, tetrametaphosphate, titanate, transferrin, tripolyphosphate, undecylate, valerate, zinc amino acid complexes, zinc nucleotide complexes, and mixtures thereof,

wherein zinc is present in the composition in a concentration range from 10  $\mu$ M to 10 mM, inclusive, and

wherein the elastin content in the region of skin is increased in a sufficient amount to treat or to prevent wrinkles.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24 wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and the composition is applied to a site on the skin of the subject.
26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25 wherein the composition is applied to one or more sites selected from the group consisting of the face, breasts, buttocks, neck, legs, arms, torso, and furrows or wrinkles in the face, hands or neck.
27. (previously presented) The method according claim 24 wherein the composition comprises zinc citrate.
28. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 24 wherein the composition comprises zinc carbonate.
29. (cancelled)
30. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 29 wherein the composition comprises zinc acetate.

31. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 24 wherein the composition comprises one or more zinc chelates.
32. (cancelled)
33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24 wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and further comprises a moisturizer.
34. (cancelled).
35. (currently amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is present in the composition in a concentration range of 900  $\mu$ M to 10 mM, inclusive~~about 100 pM to about 500  $\mu$ M.~~

**Claims 36-104 (cancelled).**

105. (currently amended) A method for increasing elastin content ~~in a tissue~~ a region of skin of a subject, said method comprising applying a composition that comprises one or more zinc-containing components to the region of skin of the subject, said tissue,
- wherein ~~said one or more zinc-containing components~~ zinc is present in the composition in a concentration range of 10  $\mu$ M to about 1.0 pM to about 10 mM,  
inclusive;

and wherein said one or more zinc-containing components is selected from the group consisting of zinc acetate, ascorbate, aspartate, butyrate, caproate, caprylate, carbonate, chromate, citraconate, citramalate, citrate, EDTA, formate, fumarate, gallate, gluconate, halides, iodate, lactate, laurate, laureate, malate, malcate, malonate, metaphosphate, methanesulfonate, monophosphate, myristate, nitrate, octoate, oleate, orotate, orthophosphate, oxalate, palmitate, permanganate, phenolsulfonate, phosphate, picolinate, propionate, pyrophosphate, salicylate, selenate, stearate, succinate, sulfate, sulfonate, tartrate, tetrametaphosphate, titanate, transferrin, tripolyphosphate, undecylate, valerate, zinc amino acid complexes, zinc nucleotide complexes, and mixtures thereof, and

wherein the elastin content in the region of skin is increased in a sufficient amount to treat or to prevent wrinkles.

106. (cancelled)
107. (previously presented) The method according to claim 106, wherein said composition is applied to one or more sites selected from the group consisting of the face, breasts, buttocks, neck, legs, arms, torso, and furrows or wrinkles in the face, hands or neck.
108. (previously presented) The method according to claim 105, wherein said composition comprises zinc citrate.

109. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 105, wherein said composition comprises zinc carbonate.
110. (cancelled)
111. (previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein said composition comprises zinc acetate.
112. (previously presented) The method of claim 105, wherein said composition comprises one or more zinc chelates.
113. (withdrawn) The method of claim 105, wherein said composition comprises one or more zinc complexes.
114. (previously presented) The method of claim 105, wherein said composition further comprises a moisturizer.
115. (currently amended) A method for increasing elastin in an area of skin of a subject, wherein said method comprises
- topically applying a therapeutically effective amount of a zinc-comprising formulation to said area of skin, wherein said formulation comprises zinc in a concentration range of from ~~about 1.0 pM~~ 10  $\mu$ M to ~~about~~ 10 mM;
- wherein said zinc in said formulation is derived from any member of the group consisting of zinc acetate, ascorbate, aspartate, butyrate, caproate, caprylate,

carbonate, chromate, citraconate, citramalate, citrate, EDTA, formate, fumarate, gallate, gluconate, halides, iodate, lactate, laurate, laureate, malate, maleate, malonate, metaphosphate, methanesulfonate, monophosphate, myristate, nitrate, octoate, oleate, orotate, orthophosphate, oxalate, palmitate, permanganate, phenolsulfonate, phosphate, picolinate, propionate, pyrophosphate, salicylate, selenate, stearate, succinate, sulfate, sulfonate, tartrate, tetrametaphosphate, titanate, transferrin, tripolyphosphate, undecylate, valerate, zinc amino acid complexes, zinc nucleotide complexes, and mixtures thereof,

wherein the elastin content in the area of skin is increased in a sufficient amount to treat or to prevent wrinkles.

116. (currently amended) The method according to claim 115, wherein the zinc is present in a concentration range of from ~~about 1.0 pM~~ 900  $\mu$ M to 10 mM ~~about 1.0 mM~~.
117. (currently amended) The method according to claim 116, wherein the zinc is present in a concentration range of from ~~about 1.0 pM~~ 1 mM to 10 mM ~~about 900  $\mu$ M~~.

**Claims 118-121 (cancelled)**

122. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is selected from the group consisting of zinc ascorbate, aspartate, butyrate, caproate, caprylate, chromate, citraconate, citramalate, EDTA, formate, fumarate, gallate, iodate, lactate, laurate, laureate, malate, maleate, malonate,

metaphosphate, methanesulfonate, monophosphate, myristate, octoate, oleate, orotate, orthophosphate, oxalate, palmitate, permanganate, phosphate, picolinate, propionate, pyrophosphate, selenate, stearate, succinate, sulfonate, tartrate, tetrametaphosphate, transferrin, tripolyphosphate, undecylate, valerate, zinc amino acid complexes, zinc nucleotide complexes, and mixtures thereof.

123. (currently amended) The method according to claims 24 or 122, in which the zinc-containing component is present in a range of ~~about 1.0 pM~~ 900  $\mu$ M to ~~about 10 mM,~~ inclusive.
124. (currently amended) The method according to claims 24 or 122, in which the zinc-containing component is present in a concentration range of 1 mM to 10 mM, inclusive, ~~about 1.0 pM to about 1.0 mM.~~
125. (cancelled)